

Traversing The Mist



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Logline

Traversing the Mist invites visitors to embody a Taiwanese young man and venture into a surreal gay sauna, a poetic dreamscape, woven by desires and fears.

[TRAILER](#) (link)

Country: Taiwan

Synopsis

Inside a surreal gay sauna, you find yourself embodied in the body of a young Taiwanese man. You venture into this dreamscape, woven by desires, excitements and fears, crossing eyes with the other sauna-goers who all have the same faces. As you walk along every floor, corridor and room, each layer of the maze irreversibly unravels behind your back and fades into the mist. With *Traversing the Mist*, CHOU Tung-Yen pushes the boundaries of real-time XR and narrative and expands the VR360 film *In the Mist* into a 6DoF multi-user experience.

Quotes

“As a theatre maker, virtual reality empowers me to conjure theatre akin to magic, transcending the limits of a physical stage. It renders the impossible achievable and opens up restricted spaces in reality to the public through virtual reality. *Traversing the Mist* enables me to reinvent the magic of theatre.” - Director, CHOU Tung-Yen

Project Insights

Select advance interview questions with the creative teams:

How is your immersive piece similar to traditional cinema?

Traversing the Mist can be seen as a tribute to film director Tsai Ming Liang’s work *River* (1997, Silver Bear, Berlinale). It was also influenced by films that depict specific gay culture, e.g., *Théo et Hugo dans le même bateau*.

What are the core themes present in *Traversing the Mist*?

1. Gay Culture:

Traversing dives into gay culture, presenting the less spoken–possibly less publicly recognized–desire for love and intimacy.

2. Gaze:

Traversing explores the emotions from watching and being watched and seeks to evoke these responses from the audience members, who are assigned roles as the player and the observer.

3. Loneliness:

Traversing portrays loneliness in a way that delves into the connection between life and emptiness, touching on what desolation could look and feel like. It echoes the famous belief from the Diamond Sutra: “Everything in existence is, like a dream, an illusion.”

Team Bios

Direction and Concept: CHOU Tung-Yen

CHOU Tung-Yen is an award-winning theatre, film and XR maker from Taiwan. He focuses on envisioning new ways of experiencing narrative through the use of new media. His first VR film, In the Mist, was selected for the Venice Film Festival and won the Panorama VR Prize at the Festival du Nouveau Cinéma de Montréal 2021.

Links to Image Assets

[Headshots](#) (ZIP)

[Project Photos](#) (ZIP)

[Project Poster Link](#) (ZIP)

Links to Video Assets

[Trailer](#)

Social Media Tags

Instagram = @vmstudiotw, @yenniechou

Facebook = @VM Studio & Very Theatre, @Chou Tung-Yen